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Bringing Native & Metis People Closer Together

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ALBERTA Native News

Native Affairs Dept. Split Up

by Hy Chaparrel

Premier Don Getty recently announced his new Cabinet, and his new streamlined approach to government. One of the biggest moves he made was to split up Native Affairs.

As of several weeks ago, Native Affairs lost its status as a separate ministry. From now one, the department will be run by senior ministers Neil Crawford and Jim Horsman.

Premier Getty said at a news conference recently that Alberta's aboriginal peoples should be able "to access every department, every minister, just as other people do, and should not be channelled into one small junior ministry."

For many years now, Native organizations have charged that Alberta Native Affairs was nothing more than a mishmash of bureaucratic mindlessness that stifled Indians from working directly with important departments such as housing, social services and education.

Crawford, who was appointed Municipal Affairs Minister, took on the responsibility for the program unit and housing of Native Affairs. Horsman, on the other hand, will take control of the native affairs legal unit in his capacity as Attorney General and Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Loro Carmen, president of the Alberta Native Women's Association, said the way the operation is set up now "is even worse than before, if that's possible".

Carmen said Natives need people who must be sensitive to the concerns and issues, not people who live in a completely different lifestyle. "The Native community is sick and tired of ministers being appointed to areas not because of their background, but as a type of reward."

Indian Association of Alberta president Wilf McDougall felt the move to combine the legal unit with intergovernmental affairs was done principally because of the impending Constitutional talks.

Sam Sinclair, president of the Metis Association of Alberta, said he was looking forward to working with Crawford, but was disheartened by the fact there was no longer a separate department for Metis and Status Indians.

Elmer Ghostkeeper, vice-president of the Federation of Metis Settlements, said he was pleased with the Cabinet announcement. "Neil Crawford has a sensitivity of the issues, and I think he's quite knowledgeable of the situation faced by the settlements. Under Native Affairs, we just couldn't get the government to work with Native people. They had aspirations of being another



Premier Don Getty

(federal) Indian Affairs Department. I think we'll be able to do something positive now with these changes."

POW WOW

INFORMATION
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Women Protest Award

by Jim Crow

A number of Native women are disturbed that Walter Twinn, chief of the Sawridge Band, has received an honorary degree from Athabasca University.

The founder and president of Indian Rights for Indian Women, Jenny Margetts, said her group objects to the choice because Twinn is a "chauvinist chief" who has barred former women band members from returning to the reserve.

Margetts and a few other prominent Native women called Dr. Terry Morrison, presi-

dent of the university, to protest the award.

But Morrison said Twinn received the honorary doctorate in recognition of his vast accomplishments as an individual, and for his contributions to the Native community.

Said Morrison: "The university has no formal position on Native women, though we recognize it is a very sensitive issue."

For his part, Twinn scoffed at the charge he was either a chauvinist or discriminatory, and denied saying that women could not have their status back. He did affirm, however, that bands should and

do have the right to say who is a member and who is not.

The Sawridge Band is one of five Alberta bands that launched a court action earlier this year to have sections of the amended Indian Act declared unconstitutional.



Inuit In Dire Straits

by Gerry Garcia

A parliamentary committee heard several weeks ago that the success of animal rights groups in Europe, bent on destroying the seal pelt and fur industry, could spell the ruin of many Inuit communities.

Currently, the Inuit people are beset by alcohol and suicide problems. John Illupalik, secretary treasurer of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, said some communities have lost up to 90 per cent of their incomes because of the fur ban overseas.

"Prices for furs have gone down, but we need to sell them to buy things like everybody else", Illupalik told members of the Commons aboriginal affairs committee.

He described a number of northern communities as "almost desperate". Some places have unemployment rates as high as 70 per cent. Most people hunt to buy staples. We're the victims of a vicious cycle."

Legal counsel for the Tapirisat, Nancy Doubleday, said the arguments of animal rights groups elicit powerful emotional reactions because they offer vivid pictures "most of us are prepared to believe".

Officials from the Fur Institute of Canada, a national organization representing fur manufacturing and trapping groups, say their members have already suffered huge sale losses in Britain, Holland, Switzerland and several other countries in Europe. And those huge reductions are directly attributable to the activities of animal rights groups, they say.

The institute recently asked for federal financial help to open a London office to counteract animal rights lobbyists.

Doubleday reminded the committee that aboriginal treaty rights are confirmed under the constitution, adding that most court cases involving Native issues concern their right to hunt and trap.

David Crombie, Minister of Native Affairs and Northern Development, must strongly defend the Inuit traditional way of life, remarked Doubleday.

"If it were not for our ancestors hunting as they did, we would not be here today," said Rhoda Inuksuk, president of Tapirisat.



ALBERTA Native News

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Closer Together

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Free Movement At Stake

B.C. Band Still Defying Border Law

The scene of the crimes take place on a sweeping, hilly meadow in southern British Columbia. On the meadow stands a weather-beaten fence that marks the boundary between Canada and the United States.

On a well-trodden dirt road that runs through an opening in the fence, RCMP have laid almost 100 charges against Kootenay Indians in just the past five years.

It is that dirt road, and the delapidated fence, that separates a Montana ranch from B.C.'s Tobacco Plains Kootenay Indian reserve.

After being arrested, the Natives always follow the same routine. They're brought before a judge in nearby Cranbrook, and asked to explain why they constantly enter back into Canada without reporting in at the official crossing at Roosville, about two km away.

The story is always the same. The Natives argue that it is their traditional right to go anywhere freely. They also say they have been travelling such routes in North America for more than a thousand years.

The Kootenay Indians continually tell the judge that when white men created the boundary that separated the two countries more than 100 years ago, it split Kootenay brother from brother and mother from daughter. Apparently, it still does.

The judge always pays close attention to the details. And then proceeds to levy fines

of \$50 or more — most of the time.

Sophie Pierre, chief of the Kootenay band at St. Mary's reserve near Cranbrook, said the government can take the band to court as often as it likes. "We're still going to continue to use the crossing," she defiantly states.

Pierre said the border artificially cuts them off from the two Kootenay Indian reserves south of the 49th parallel.

For a number of years now, the Indians have been lobbying for an amendment to Can-

ada's Immigration Act that would make it possible for Indians in the States to cross into Canada without hassle.

The meadow crossing on the Tobacco Plain reserve has become a symbol of their battle to win freedom of movement — a right all American Indians take for granted.

Tobacco Plains member Caroline Gravelle is just one of the victims of circumstance. Like many in her band, she's been charged for entering Canada illegally. "Just look at my family,"

she laments. "Half are American and half are Canadian".

Even though Gravelle is free to enter the U.S. unrestricted, that right is not given to American Indians who want to enter Canada.

Just recently, Kootenay Indians took their case to Ottawa, where they told officials they want the Canadian government to recognize the so-called "Jay Treaty". That document was signed in the 1700s between England and the U.S. to give all North American Indians total freedom of movement.

16 Years Later

Native Farmer Recomposed

by Sy Sims

The Federal Court of Canada has ordered the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to pay out \$171,872 in damages to a Saulteaux Indian.

Court found Joseph Mentuck had been driven off his money-making farm because of a reserve feud, and was then told by officials to start collecting welfare in Winnipeg.

In a ruling made last month, Mr. Justice J.C. McNair said the department had broken an agreement with Mentuck by directing him to leave his farm — situated on the Valley River Band reserve near Grandview, Manitoba — and then refused to help him relocate.

The long and involved tale of Joseph Mentuck began almost 20 years ago when the Department of Indian Affairs encouraged him to expand his farm. Mentuck expressed doubts because he feared other band members could become indignant about the move.

The start of Mentuck's troubles began in 1970, shortly after he leased another piece of land on the recommendation of federal officials.

The only road to the new tract of land, however, was through the reserve. And often as not, the road was blocked, leaving Mentuck unable to get farm equipment through.

Resentment grew from other band members, and within months they began allowing cattle to roam over his crops, or drove trucks across it while hunting.

McNair said that behind this story lay a history "of smouldering ill-will between the Lyndegs family and that of Mentuck, going back to the days of the latter's father".

Following the election of Clifford Lyndegs as band chief in 1970, the badgering of Mentuck grew in intensity. McNair said Mentuck's family faced constant threats of violence, and was subjected to random gunfire and automobile searches. Despite repeated protests by Mentuck to police and department officials, neither could act resolutely to control the situation on the reserve.

At the time, Indian Affairs minister Hugh Faulkner appointed a special representative to get to the root of the problem. The official proposed that the department pay Mentuck \$150,000 to allow him to move somewhere else.

That summer, the Mentucks moved into a Winnipeg home, with the department covering their rent. At about the same time, Mentuck's farm machinery was auctioned off, and the department appraised the farm's value at almost \$150,000.

But senior officials refused to foot the bill because they said the move was precipitated by the band itself. On December 10, 1980, Mentuck was informed that the department would no longer pay their family social assistance, and that he should seek welfare from the city of Winnipeg.

He was also told the department would no longer pay his rent, either. Almost six years later, Mentuck finally got a ruling in his favour. Judge McNair said the department was in the wrong by giving Mentuck the clear impression it would help him move.

Government Planning New Lumber Strategy

by Jim Crow

Provincial officials and senior forest industry executives met with federal government trade negotiators recently to discuss how to combat an American inquiry into whether more than \$1 billion in trade penalties should be levied against Canadian imports.

James Kelleher, International Trade Minister, indicated recently he has not ruled out picking up the industry's legal bills — which could easily run into multi-millions of dollars.

Said Kelleher: "What we plan to do now is develop our strategy for fighting the countervail case. We'll just have to wait and see what is requested by the province and industry from our government."

A coalition of U.S. companies recently made a formal application to have countervailing duties applied against Canadian lumber to make up for

what they call "government subsidies".

The coalition would like to see a duty of not less than 27 per cent on Canadian lumber imports. Last year, our country sent the U.S. almost \$4 billion in softwoods.

For many months now, Canada has publicly denied the subsidy charge, and says the application before the quasi-judicial U.S. International Trade Commission amounts to nothing more than

"harrassment".

When the coalition made a similar complaint in 1983 — that Canadian stumpage fees are so low, they amount to an export subsidy — the U.S. trade body dismissed the charge. The legal battle cost Canadian lumbermen more than \$5 million.

The new application was launched following a Canadian proposal to appoint high level envoys to resolve the dispute. The provinces, however, strongly

rebelled against the idea, and the federal government dropped it a short time later.

Bilateral talks have been proceeding since the beginning of the year in an attempt to iron out the dispute, but Kelleher suggested discussions could be cut off.

"Now that the countervail has in fact been filed, realistically it would point to those separate discussions coming to an end, but we haven't made a final decision on that yet," commented Kelleher.

Liberal Leader John Turner remarked that

"we've been paties" while the Americans are playing hard ball in the lumber dispute.

Meanwhile, Liberal trade critic Lloyd Axworthy said the free-trade talks shouldn't be allowed to continue until the Americans drop or withdraw their countervailing charges.

Supreme Court To Decide Native Case

The Supreme Court of Canada will be asked to decide whether Indians accused of crime have the right to be tried by Native jurors, says a Winnipeg lawyer.

In a judgement last month, the Manitoba Court of Appeal rejected a claim by Walter Thomas Sinclair that he was not tried by a jury of his peers when

he was convicted of murdering two prison guards in July of 1984.

Jay Prober, who took up Sinclair's case, said he will appeal the decision to the Supreme Court. Prober has argued that his client's rights were violated under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms because there was only one Native on the 12-member jury.

ISI To Take More Aggressive Stance

by Sy Sims

A member of an indigenous rights group says animal rights activists are motivated by an uncontrollable revulsion to killing and blood, and ultimately, of death.

Larry Merculieff of Indigenous Survival International (ISI), a coalition of Native people from Alaska, Canada and Greenland, said that those who live in suburban areas are very divorced from death.

"They can't even stand to watch their pets die, so they take them to euthanasia centres," said Merculieff.

He went on to explain that animal rights advocates, who are also known as anti-vivisectionists, respond on a purely emotional level to blood and death. "But for us, it's a daily fact of life".

"We don't kill for the sake of killing — or for the sake of trophies," he exclaimed.

Several weeks ago, ISI delegates flew to Ottawa to attend the World Conservation Strategy Conference, which drew people from more than 100 countries.

Sponsors of the conference included the Canadian Wildlife Federation, Environment Canada, the United Nations Environment Program, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

ISI was originally established several years ago in Yellowknife as a response to animal rights and anti-sleuth hunting groups.

Thomas Coons, a trapper who works with the James Bay Cree Indians, said he wasn't satisfied with what the world has done to the people of the earth. "We have always been conservationists," he said.

In the face of strong activist protests, particularly in Europe where seal skins have been banned, ISI has decided to take a more aggressive stance. "We're going to stop reacting to situations and start doing something positive," said Dave Monture, ISI secretary treasurer.

"We're not going to join the conservation movement, but we are hoping others are going to join us," he added.



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Disaster Fuels Chief's Outrage

by Jim Crow

A Cree Indian chief whose village on Hudson Bay was virtually destroyed by a flood of ice and water last month, is outraged that it took a catastrophe to get Ottawa to consider relocating the band.

Chief George Hunter said recently that his Winisk Band had been attempting to move upstream for the past quarter century.

The flood is known to have killed two people, and injured as many as 20 more.

At least three charter helicopters helped evacuate more than 100 people in the band out to Attapawiskat on James Bay, approximately 350 km southwest of this Cree village. A half dozen members, however, chose to stay behind to help rescuers.

An emergency shelter was immediately set up in the school at Attapawiskat to provide medical care. There were no serious injuries reported.

The Winisk band village was almost totally wiped out. Only seven of about 60 buildings were left standing intact, including four homes, a Roman Catholic mission and the band's store.

More than 50 homes had been shifted from their sites, some being shoved as far as 5 km away.

The flood was believed to be caused by the combination of melting snow, the annual ice break-up, and rainy weather, said Natural Resources spokesman Ken Abraham.

"Our village was located on a flood zone, and was not suitable for any kind of community development," said Chief Hunter. "We had a community plan for an 18-mile upstream site, but we always ran into funding problems."

Ontario Provincial Police said they recovered the body of John Crowe, a 76-year-old band elder. Police are also searching for a missing woman.

The last major flood the village experienced happened in 1966. But Hunter pointed out that almost every spring, water from the nearby Winisk River reaches to the doorsteps of homes in the village. Only this time, "the worst happened".

Robert Dickson, chairman of the emergency measures committee in the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, said there has always been a risk of flooding in the areas around Hudson Bay, and added the problem was difficult to predict.

Dickson said moving the band to higher ground had been considered in past years, but would not elaborate.

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Fishing Controversy Continues

by Jim Crow

The Crown has withdrawn an illegal fishing charge against a former Cold Lake band chief, but the controversy continues over treaty harvesting rights.

Marcel Piche won't be going to provincial court in Grand Centre after Fish and Wildlife area regional director, Ray Makowski, decided to drop proceedings. Charges have also been dropped against five other Cold Lake councillors.

Even though officials banned fishing for wall-eye and trout on the lake from April 1 to May 15 because of dwindling stocks, treaty Indians continued to fish. Piche claimed, however, that band members were taking only whitefish.

Makowski said failure to properly consult with the band about the six-week ban was a major reason why all charges were dropped.

"We wanted to work things out in a harmonious way because we're protecting the resources for everyone. And we're looking to work out a concise allocation plan with all user groups before next season," Makowski remarked.

Originally, discussions had been held between assistant deputy minister of fish and wildlife, Dennis Surrendi, and the Indian Association of Alberta (IAA). Surrendi later apologized to Treaty Six band members for consulting with the wrong group.

Almost four years ago, Treaty Six Indian bands — eight in all — broke off relations with IAA.

Piche said the incident was just another ploy in the government's long range plans to ultimately get rid of the treaties.

In the past few weeks, David Crombie, minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, has met with alliance members on several occasions to iron out the problems.

Sharon Venne, Treaty Six lawyer, said she believes the nets confiscated by fish and wildlife officers should be returned very shortly.

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Education Improvements Coming Along Slowly

by Jim Crow

A Native parent recently described the Edmonton public school board as an institution offering good programs in Native education, but "they are hitting only the tip of the iceberg".

Ralph Bouvette, chairman of the Sacred Circle parent advisory committee, said that while the board is considered to be on the cutting edge in the business of Native education, it still has a long way to go.

The committee members believe a much broader scope of programs and services in the Edmonton area is needed. They said a secondary school program that would follow up children graduating from elementary schools offering the Sacred Circle program should be established.

The board gave the go-ahead to the first Sacred Circle program five years ago. The program, developed in co-operation with the Native community, provides resources and trained personnel for schools teaching Native education.

Bouvette said a follow-up is needed because of a very high drop-out rate among Natives in the province once they get into high school.

He also pointed out that many Native parents don't stress education strongly enough to their children because of their own bad experiences in federal government schools many years ago.

Bouvette, who was questioned on a number of issues by Trustee Dick Mather, said discrimination is still a problem "our children put up with as a way of life".

Another Trustee, John Lakusta, asked if the core education of Native students was being sacrificed for "cultural activities". Bouvette replied that the organization has no intention of "sacrificing quality of education for pow-wows and beading".

Though the Sacred Circle project will continue its programs, the group will lose its pilot project status.

The Awabisi program, which was created 13 years ago, will continue to be offered by the board at Prince Charles Elementary School. There, Native youth from kindergarten to grade 6 are taught the regular curriculum in addition to Cree as a second language, and Native culture.

The Sacred Circle resource centre will be moved into the Centre for Education from Oliver Elementary School, and it was agreed that more schools will be provided with liaison workers.



Kamp Kandoo

The Edmonton Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities is offering a day camp for children with learning difficulties. Kamp Kandoo is now accepting applicants ranging from 7-12 years of age. The camps run for a period of two weeks, however, the children and their siblings are encouraged to register in more than one session. There will be four camps:

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Pact Could Heal Wounds

by Jim Crow

The superintendent of Wood Buffalo National Park, Ken East, says a historic agreement with the Fort Chipewyan Cree band should go a long way in helping heal a long-festering wound between federal and provincial governments and Native peoples.

A recent land claim agreement guarantees the Fort Chip band continued harvesting rights in its traditional areas, as well as a strong role in the management of the park.

Even though Parks Canada will remain as manager of resources within the park, including the Cree's traditional lands, the band's essential rights will be protected by a wildlife advisory board.

The board is comprised of four band members, three representatives from Parks Canada, and the park superintendent.

The land claim pact was approved several months ago in a referendum held by voting band members. The agreement, to the surprise of many, was accepted by an overwhelming majority. The pact, however, must still be ratified by both federal and provincial cabinets.

Most of the band's traditional lands — conservatively estimated at 3 million acres — are situated in the park's southeastern region, and includes the ecologically-fragile Peace-Athabasca Delta.

Archie Waquan, chief of the 1,100-member Cree Band, said resource harvesting will remain as part of the historic and cultural tradition of the band, and the park.

"Our use of the fish and wildlife resources in Wood Buffalo National Park has a history which predates the creation of the park by at least several hundred years," said Waquan.

"And today, we are just as concerned about those fragile resources, and about the wise management of them to insure their continued availability and productivity," he added.

Wood Buffalo was established as a national park more than 60 years ago.

The Fort Chip band's land claim package also includes a \$24 million federal cash settlement, as well as two square miles of reserve land within the park. The province agreed to give the band 11,000 acres of land outside the park, and \$2.6 million cash compensation.

Best wishes to the native families
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Several Bands Say They'll Shun Census

by Jim Crow

This month's Census of Canada forms have some Native bands and organizations upset.

Indian bands, especially in Ontario and British Columbia, are wary of how it will be used, and have refused to fill it out. But a Statistics Canada spokesman said the information could provide them with "helpful ammunition".

"With Native people being so used to dealing with the government, and the results maybe not always being what they wanted or expected, there's bound to be some apprehension," said Howard Bernard, a spokesman for the aboriginal people's program of Statistics Canada.

A strong Native reluctance to voluntarily offer up information to the government is due in part to a long history of dismal relations and distrust.

Deputy Prime Minister Erik Nielsen made a recommendation several months ago to slash millions of dollars from the \$2.2 billion budget of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. That kind of talk didn't help relations at all between the parties said Gordon Peters, Ontario regional chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

Under the current Census Act, anyone who fails to give the information asked is liable to fines of up to \$500, or three months in gaol. But still such penalties do not phase people like Leona Nahwegahbow in the last.

As chief of the Whitefish River band near Espanola, Ontario, she said her members decided against participating in the census. Furthermore,

the chief said census takers won't be given permission to enter the reserve.

Said Nahwegahbow: "Our band believed it wouldn't be accurate. We have quite a few who wouldn't be counted in. We hoped the census would happen next year."

With a current population of about 300, the Whitefish band expects to increase in size by at least 170 in the next year or two because of new federal legislation on Aboriginal rights.

Others Upset Too

Other ethnic groups are also upset about the census, but for different reasons. Dermot Rooney, president of the Manitoba Irish-Canadian Association, said the new census discriminates against Irish Canadians because it doesn't provide question forms translated into Gaelic.

Rooney said he and others in his clan will risk penalties by filling out census forms in Gaelic — as a sign of protest.

Said Rooney: "If the government is going to recognize all those other heritage languages, we're going to call for equal representation. The fact that Gaelic is not recognized as a heritage language could have an impact on how we're viewed as a cultural group, and the amount of funding we receive."

Statistics Canada currently lists approximately 1.1 million Canadians of Irish descent. Rooney, however, believes the proper figures are closer to 2 million.

In past census enumerations, the government has encouraged Irish-Canadians to mark their ancestry as British.

Cover-up Alleged by B.C. MP

by Sy Sims

Senior Indian Affairs officials, including the country's top civil servant, are engaged in a "massive cover-up" to hide their role in providing dubious federal funds to a British Columbia Indian band, said Conservative MP Lorne Greenaway.

Taking advantage of parliamentary immunity that safeguards him from legal action, Greenaway recently told a Commons committee the officials may even have been "bribed or intimidated" by band members.

The accusations concern the operation of several trailer parks on land owned by the Westband Indian Band near Kelowna, B.C., and the provision of \$300,000 to one of the financially-troubled parks in the late 1970s.

An investigation of the band, commissioned by the government, has not yet been made public. But it is known the chief and his council have been cleared of any wrongdoing. Greenaway responded by saying the report was a "white-wash".

Greenaway also accused Paul Tellier, now clerk of the Privy Council and a former deputy minister of Indian Affairs, of being a key suspect in the alleged cover-up of documents Greenaway has been seeking for the past six years.

"The cover-up reaches to the level of the deputy minister. He is now the clerk of the privy council . . . the cover-up is still going on," said Greenaway.

"The conduct of certain officials was at worst corruption, and at best contemptible," he added.

Greenaway, MP for Cariboo-Chilcotin, refused to repeat his allegations or elaborate on them outside the committee, where he enjoys parliamentary immunity.

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Get On With Changes, Report Says

by Jim Crow

A task force report written by the Department of Indian Affairs says a massive overhaul of taxation and financial policies is required if Indian

economic development is to get off the ground.

Under the direction of Don Allen, the department's assistant deputy minister, the task force was established a year ago to examine ways of bolstering the fragile Indian economy.

The 13-member task force recommended that government financial aid should be turned over to Indian bands and institutions "either created or expanded under the Native Economic Development Program".

The program is under the minister of state for small business, Andre Bissonnette.

The report, 147 pages in length, suggested that "while proceeding on the broader questions of the Constitution and Indian self-government, there is a pressing need to get on with changes . . . to further Indian economic development".

The success rate of Indian businesses has been dismal to say the least. Seventy-five per cent of small Native businesses require government financial assistance, compared with only four per cent for non-Native enterprises.

Moreover, only 12 per cent of Native operations survive for more than 11 years.

The study, made public by Indian Affairs deputy minister Bruce Rawlings six months ago, offers in the neighbourhood of 50 recommendations — many of which would first have to receive Cabinet approval.

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Province Nixes Spray Program

by Hy Chaparral

Fred McDougall, deputy minister for renewable resources, said the province has refused to give the go-ahead on a proposal by Champion Forest Products of Hinton to launch a trial herbicide spraying program.

McDougall said his department didn't have all the information it needed, and in any event, couldn't resolve the concerns of the project this summer.

Champion Forest Products' spraying program is currently being assessed by staff members from the Forestry and Environment Departments.

McDougall reiterated that public safety was the number one issue. In the past several months, more than 1,500 people have signed a petition calling for a complete moratorium on spraying.

Geoff Davey, news secretary for Premier Getty, said the Tory leader believes that as long as there are concerns among the public about the dangers of herbicides, the project will remain on hold.

Champion's forest management co-ordinator, Bob Udell, said he wasn't at all surprised by the government's decision. "We know the weight of scientific evidence is on our side, but it's clear the public has had an effect."

Udell went on to say that the chemicals intended for use, Round-up and Velpar, "are federally registered and approved. We held open houses to answer the public's concerns. I don't know what more we can do."

Udell said his company is trying to live up to its forest management agreement that requires at least 60 per cent of the new forests replaced after logging by either spruce or pine trees. Spraying is used principally to control aspen and other hardwoods that can quickly spread and dominate on newly-planted sites.



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Lougheed A Special Envoy?

by Jim Crow

Federal and provincial forestry ministers have been unable to resolve whether to appoint several special envoys to get involved in the complex issue of the Canadian-American lumber trade.

There have been a number of rumours

around that the former premier of Alberta, Peter Lougheed, could be named as head of the group. But federal trade minister James Kelleher recently said there was no formal talk about hiring such candidates.

And only last week, Lougheed himself strongly denied that he

was even contemplating an offer to lead the Canadian contingent.

Joe Clark, minister of External Affairs, who had lunch with Lougheed two weeks ago, also denied that the pair were discussing the matter.

Premier Don Getty said Lougheed is "quite an outstanding person in the trade area", but would not offer any opinions on the possibility of Lougheed being chosen

as the special envoy head on the lumber dispute.

No specific deadline on envoy candidates was given during a recent federal-provincial meeting in Toronto.



Chief Says His People 'Studied To Death'

by Jim Crow

Lubicon Lake band chief Bernard Ominayak charged that the plight of his people have been "studied to death", and said the federal government must now take definite actions if it is to be taken seriously.

Responding to recent remarks about welfare made by the minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, David Crombie, Ominayak sarcastically suggested that Native people could be studied "until we're all long gone, and that won't accomplish anything".

Last month, Crombie said that welfare was virtually "killing" aboriginal peoples.

"The federal government has to start doing something meaningful, like establishing an economic and land base for our people," said Ominayak.

The chief said welfare was a never-ending cycle that leaves Natives without any self-esteem. At present, 90 to 95 per cent of the Cold Lake band depends on welfare for sustenance.

"People are in a hopeless case in our community. Mr. Crombie should realize that people, especially in isolated communities, need an economic base."

The Cold Lake band, like most others in the Treaty 8 region, were not involved in treaty negotiations in the early part of the century. Despite the fact they were promised a reserve in 1940, the band has yet to settle its land claim with the federal government.

Said Ominayak: "There's a lot of frustration around here, and the government is taking advantage of it. They'll put in a few dollars here and a few more there for welfare, but with absolutely no intention of solving the social problems."

"We're beginning to understand more and more that education plays an important role in modern society, but at the same time the education provided for our people isn't anywhere close to the standard in other parts of the province."

Just recently, Science Minister Frank Oberle released a discussion paper on the plight of Treaty 8 Natives. Ominayak said he had read only a small portion of the report, but expressed doubt about the intentions of the federal government to act upon it, or on the white paper written by special federal negotiator E. Davie Fulton.

Fulton's confidential study, which was leaked to the public several months ago, suggests the band is entitled to more than 80 square miles of reserve land.

The report by Oberle shows total expenditures for social assistance for Treaty 8 Indians — who live in northern Alberta, northwestern Saskatchewan, and parts of British Columbia and the Northwest Territories — exceeded \$33 million in the last five years alone.



Chief Bernard Ominayak

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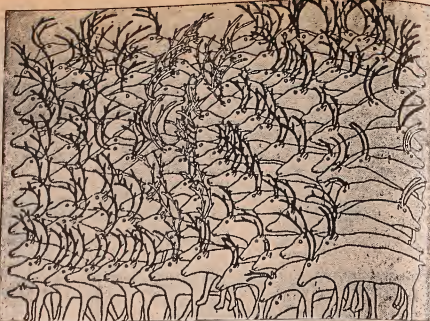
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At Ring House Gallery

Arctic Prints Impressive

by Gerry Garcia

The Ring House Gallery in Edmonton recently displayed an exciting collection of prints that beautifully brought to life the art and culture of the Arctic.

One of the most outstanding prints in the show was by Kananginak Pootoogook. His powerful naturalistic stone-cut and stencil print image, *'The Raven and the Goose'*, details an eerie collection of birds — carefree, and yet with a sense of the supernatural the always evoked.

Another unforgettable stone-cut print is *'Hundreds and Hundreds, Herds of Caribou'* by Ruth Qualluayuk. Once again, the image of the munda-dance and the sublime seem to come together on one canvas. The print shows a massive herd of caribou — yet with an almost illusory presence.

Simon Tookoome gives us a light-hearted look at the Arctic with his print *'An Embarrassing Tumble'*. The picture is a take-off on the popular fairy tale Humpty Dumpty. The image shows Humpty in the foreground as a subliminal, almost abstract figure, while the background has a splendid splash of colour and detail.

The entire collection of prints shows us not

only the strong daily symbols of life among the Arctic people, but also how these people see themselves in the world.

Perhaps the only drawbacks to the exhibition were the explanatory plaques that identified the artists and their methods. They were hung so low on the wall that visitors had to strain their backs for virtually every print — and that's an exhausting task.

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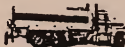
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Traditional Camps Remembered

by Gerry Garcia

Beginning in late July, and stretching for the next nine weeks, the ritual begins again. Both tourists and northern Natives are drawn to this special place in the Northwest Territories, 300 km west of Hudson's Bay in the Keewatin.

One or two Inuit families are preparing to set up the traditional camp on the tundra — much as it was in the olden days, more than 3,000 years ago. Back then, Darwinian Law was in effect, and that meant survival depended on hunting caribou.

The families don caribou skin clothing, and live in caribou skin tents. And that's just the beginning. They also travel in caribou skin kayaks, and make and use tools from caribou skin, deer and antler.

The opening of the camp is certainly a moving experience. Two hundred people, primarily Inuit from the Baker Lake settlement, and a handful of others congregate on the tundra to celebrate this joyous event.

The mayor of the community employs an "ulu" to cut the caribou sinew across the tent flap. After the cut, everyone becomes meditative. On the horizon appear the families, dressed in traditional caribou fur costumes and with their lively dogs tagging behind them.

Dressed in red serge is a constable from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who sits with the group on hides in front of the tent. The ceremony has been played out many times before, when the government used to visit

the camps regularly to register births, deaths, and marriages. They also distributed food vouchers and took the children off to school.

After a busy day of activities, everyone indulges in a feast of boiled caribou, a traditional meal served from a communal pot, followed by tea.

During the evening, prizes are awarded for the best costumes, and then everyone joins in the traditional games, singing and drum dancing.



Chiefs Establish Trust Fund

by Jim Crow

Two Saskatchewan Indian chiefs have helped set up a trust fund in an effort to save the life of Hazel Wapass, the little child still waiting for a life-saving liver transplant.

The 14-month-old Edmonton youngster suffers from biliary atresia, a fatal bile duct condition. After evaluating Hazel four months ago, doctors at the University of Western Ontario Hospital in London placed her on the "urgent list" for a transplant.

Hazel's grandfather, Chief Laurence Weenie of the Poundmaker Band, and Chief Andrew Paddy of the Thunderchild Band set up the trust fund in March. Both bands are situated near North Battleford, Saskatchewan.

Several months ago, more than \$6,000 was raised through a talent show staged in North Battleford. In addition, donations have been pouring in from the province's 69 Indian bands.

Not long ago, the fund was up to \$10,000 but some of the money had to be used to pay for air time bought to broadcast the talent show.

"Right now, there is about \$7,000 in the fund, but the money is still coming in," said Paddy.

The remaining money is slated to pay for the air fare and hotel expenses for a relative who would accompany Hazel's mother, Janice, when mother and child leave for London, Ontario.

Alberta Health Care Insurance will cover Hazel's medical bills.

Janice's travelling and hotel expenses will be picked up by the Department of Indian Affairs. The department, however, will not foot the bill for a companion.

The committee said the fund set up for Hazel could become a permanent fixture. Paddy said the fund could keep going to help other Native children in need of medical treatment.

The committee's ultimate goal is to establish a national foundation by the end of the year. The topic will be raised at this year's national conference of First Nations in Newfoundland.

Besides soliciting Saskatchewan bands for contributions to the fund, letters will also be mailed out to bands in Manitoba and Alberta for donations.

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Metis Artifacts On Display

Beginning this month, an exciting exhibition entitled *THE METIS* opens at the Provincial Museum in Edmonton. Produced by the Glenbow Museum, with support from Gulf Canada and the National Museum of Canada, the exhibit magnificently documents the lives of the Metis in western Canada.

From their origin as a people, through their development as a nation, *THE METIS* is a superb showcase of history for all to see.

Last year was a historic occasion for the Metis in Canada. In 1985 marked the 100th anniversary of the North West Rebellion which culminated in the Battle of Batoche — where the Metis were defeated by Canadian troops.

The Metis story is one of struggle to gain recognition within the Canadian mosaic, and of the hardships in making the transition from the children of the fur trade to an independent people with a unique place in our country's history.

The exhibition opens on a dramatic note — with fragments of the rope used to hang Louis Riel. The death of this famous Metis leader did not mark the end of the Metis people, or the dreams of nationhood they so fervently pursued.

In 1982, after a long and politically astute campaign, the Metis were legally acknowledged as an aboriginal people in the Canadian Constitution.

The roots of the Metis are traced back to the seventeenth century, when Europeans came to Canada in search of beaver and other furs. These newcomers also sought the company of Native women.

In addition to providing companionship, the women supplied items necessary for survival. They also cemented political alliances to their families that guaranteed trading partners.

The Metis were associated with almost every aspect of the fur trade. The detailed exhibition follows their involvement as guides, canoe men, traders and trappers through to 1821, when the amalgamation of the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company eventually led to the closing of trading posts — and signalled the decline of the fur trade.

This event marked a transition in the lives of the Metis, and the beginning of a confrontation with an ever-increasing white immigration.

Confrontations with the white population began in 1869, when the government of Canada started re-surveying Metis homelands in the Red River colony. The Metis united under Riel to



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fight for their lands. The political controversy that led to the Red River insurrection is outlined in documents issued by Riel's provisional government.

The exhibition records the activities of the Metis across the Northwest Territories (which at that time included Saskatchewan and Alberta), where they hunted buffalo, farmed, and engaged in trapping and freighting. It reveals the struggles and poverty they faced as the fur and buffalo resources declined.

In 1885, under Riel, a small group of Metis rejected the authority of the federal government at Batoche, Saskatchewan, and declared a provisional government for the region.

This led to encounters with the North West Mounted Police, in what became known as the North West Rebellion, and finally the Battle of Batoche.

As settlement of the west continued into the 1890s, many Metis were still living in poverty; but some became successful farmers, tradesmen and independent businessmen.

During this period, clothing became a personal expression of what it is to be Metis. Beautiful examples of the exquisite beadwork and quillwork which decorates most Metis artifacts were featured throughout the exhibition.

The Metis Exhibition runs from June 7 to July 20.



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Old Ways Not Forgotten

Inuit Culture Kept Alive

by Jim Crow

For most Inuit today, the traditional life on the land has become a week-end hobby, like the country cottage is for southerners fleeing the city.

Now living in h.c. is equipped with electricity and television, the older Inuit do not really feel the necessity to revert back to the old ways of life.

However, they do want the children and grandchildren to both remember and appreciate the customs and traditions of their ancestors.

In Baker Lake, about a dozen elders make up a kind of senior citizens organization called Oilautimuit. Together with a younger man, Paul Toolook, they prepare to make tools used at the traditional camp.

A great variety of tools are displayed, including a basket of woven willow sticks to collect eggs, a soapstone dish to hold food, caribou hides, shovels from caribou bones, a soapstone scraper for caribou hides, as well as pails and water pans from caribou hides.

While the women soaked and scraped and sewed tents made from 80 caribou hides, the men made a 400-km sojourn up the Thelon River to get poles for the tent.

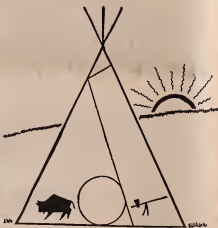
Then the tourists arrive. Most come in to Baker Lake by air from Rankin Inlet on Hudson's Bay. But there are also many people at the settlement who are willing to take visitors out to the traditional camp by either dinghy or freighter canoe at \$20 a round trip.

For those who want to take in more than a couple of hours of sightseeing, either to fish or discover the archeological sites in the region, they can arrange to be picked up at the time of their choice. The delightful people at Baker Lake

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Northerners Feel Brunt Of Animal Rights Protest

by Hy Chaparrel

The Anglican Bishop of the Arctic has charged that attempts by animal rights organizations to destroy the fur and seal industry in North America is tantamount to cultural and economic genocide.

While Bishop John Sperry uses the word 'genocide' with some caution, he is nevertheless disturbed by the momentum these groups are having against Natives in the North.

"If they could see what impact their cause has had on the lives of these people — the pain they're experiencing as a result of that cause — I'm convinced they would rethink their position on this matter," said Sperry.

In the early years of his ministry in the North, Sperry learned not only the Inuktituk language, but the ways and means of the Inuit, or Eskimos, in their daily lives.

Before settlements were established in the Arctic, Sperry ran dog-teams over hundreds of mile of bleak, desolate terrain to visit members of his congregation.

And the very strong image Sperry has always retained of these people is their love — almost reverence — for the animal kingdom. "Their hunts never contained elements of cruelty that animal rights groups have made such a big deal of. In fact, they regard each animal as a gift from the creator. To their way of thinking, wildlife has both cultural and religious significance," explained Sperry.

The efforts by the Anglican Church to bring Natives to Christianity has been a great success. Churches in the Arctic have a membership list that is 92 per cent Native, and several dioceses are led by Inuit ministers.

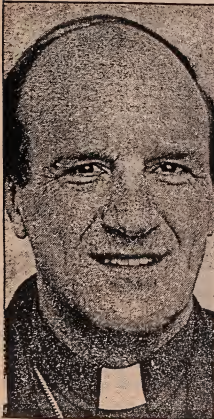
Perry claims that there exists an "absolute inconsistency" about southern society, which has never had any qualms about eating beef, wearing leather shoes, or carrying leather purses. "But then they turn around and object to a northern hunter killing a caribou or a seal.

"I really don't think southerners comprehend the effort of this protest. But it's not unlike say-

ing there should be no more harvesting of wheat on the prairies, or manufacturing of automobiles in southern Ontario."

"It's even worse in the North because people in the region have nothing to fall back on. There is no agriculture here, and no other industry."

Sperry continued: "I know my plea may be regarded as a little unusual, especially to the millions of southerners who really have no concept of what life is really like up here. But if we in the Anglican community stand together as a family, we should try and understand each other's problems."



Bishop John Sperry

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BETWEEN THE SHELVES

by Shelagh Kerr

If you're like most Canadians, you have no real idea of how much sugar you eat, but you probably think it's too much.

It's not as easy as it was in the past to know how much sugar we consume. In the past, we measured our own sugar for home baking; canning; jam; and ice cream making, or as a sweetener to beverages, cereals and desserts. Now, we buy more prepared foods to which sugar has been added by the manufacturer, instead of in the home.

Surprisingly, however, sugar consumption statistics show essentially no change during the past 50 years, with annual consumption remaining at approximately 40 kilograms per person.

While this amount may seem high, it must be remembered that it reflects dietary consumption and sugar used in manufacturing. About 25 per cent of this amount is "lost"; that is, it is an ingredient in pet foods, pharmaceuticals and to-

bacco products, is fermented away in pickle production, bread making and alcoholic beverage production, or is used in products which are exported. As well, syrups and liquids used to can fruit often go unused by the consumer.



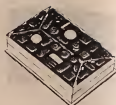
If we take these losses into account, Canadians' annual consumption drops to just 31 kilograms per person, or seven tablespoons daily. Not included in these figures are sweeteners such as high fructose

corn sweeteners, molasses, honey and maple syrup.

To estimate how much sugar you eat, check package labels. To translate grams of sugar into household measures, use 4 grams of sugar equals one teaspoon; 12 grams equals one tablespoon, and 200 grams equals one cup. If no claims are made and amounts aren't stated, the list of ingredients can reveal a lot about sugar content. Ingredients are listed on packages in descending order by weight. Sugar lost during fermentation does not appear in the finished product, nor does it contribute to calories, but regulations require it be listed on the ingredient label.

Working ingredient

Is sugar simply flavorful window dressing? All taste and no benefit? The answer is clearly: "No." Sugar adds color; immobilizes water in jams and jellies to prevent the growth of micro-organisms; provides bulk in baked goods; inhibits



micro-organisms in sausages; controls freezing points and crystallization in ice cream and offsets bitter flavors in chocolate. Sugar is a working ingredient, and an excellent source of energy, providing approximately 15 per cent of the calories in the Canadian diet. Used in moderation, sugar adds palatability, energy and variety to the foods we eat.

Shelagh Kerr B.Sc., R.P. Dt. is Director, Scientific Affairs, Grocery Products Manufacturers of Canada, Suite 101, 1185 Eglinton Ave. East, Don Mills, Ontario M3C 3C6.

Beans Primavera

(NC) — Flavorful, inexpensive, and rich in nutrients, beans are at the heart of this zesty recipe. It's a quick, colorful casserole that's bound to be a crowd pleaser.

Beans Primavera

- 2 medium zucchini, sliced
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) carrot, grated
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) onion, chopped
- 6 Tbsp. (75 mL) butter
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) sour cream
- 1 1/4 oz. (398 mL) can Libby's Deep-Browned Beans
- 1-1/4 cup (300 mL) seasoned croutons

What's Cooking?

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Sauté zucchini, carrot and onion in 4 Tbsp. butter. Remove from heat and stir in sour cream, Libby's Deep-Browned Beans and 3/4 cup croutons. Turn mixture into a casserole dish. Heat remaining butter and brown remaining croutons. Arrange on top of casserole. Bake for 30 minutes in covered casserole.

Yield: 6-8 servings.



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Welfare 'Killing' Natives

by Jim Crow

Indian Affairs minister David Crombie recently said welfare has been killing Natives across the country for decades.

In an interview in Ottawa several weeks ago, Crombie remarked that Canada is learning a big lesson "from the experience of Indian communities over the last 20 years, and that is that welfare has been killing them — not just the welfare system, but the idea of welfare itself."

Said Crombie: "First of all, if you give people money, it's never enough, and secondly, it

usually diminishes respect for both the giver and the receiver."

Crombie offered the comments at a meeting about a Treaty 8 discussion paper prepared by Science Minister Frank Oberle, MP for Prince George-Peace River.

Crombie said the report was examined at length with Treaty 8 leaders, but refused to comments on its contents.

The 87-year-old treaty encompasses much of northern Alberta, northwestern Saskatchewan and portions of B.C. and the Northwest Territories.

Oberle suggested the Indian Act be suspended and a strong commission appointed specifically to redefine aboriginal and treaty rights.

Oberle also noted that there is "an inverse ratio between orders of spending on behalf of Indians and their standard of living". Crombie retorted that the point has been talked about for years.

"The great paradox of the whole thing is that in the 50s, 60s and perhaps early 70s, people felt that if you simply threw money at problems, they would go away," said Crombie.

Vinson Album Off Track

by Hy Chaparal

One of the most enduring and colourful recording artists in Western Canada has generated her first-rate talents into a very disappointing album.

Laura Vinson is known as a singer possessing a full, rich voice for her country music stylings, though she suffers at times because of stifled arrangements. With a bit more pizzazz, Vinson could well be one of the most dynamic artists anywhere.

But she sure doesn't reveal it in her latest LP "Many Moons Ago". In fact, the music is often turgid, and full of bland arrangements. Some of the songs bog down into a monotone lull, totally

lacking in her formerly full range of highs and lows.

Vinson, who wrote most of the lyrics, is at her best when she stays clear of the Nashville twang. On the whole, her music — a combination of comedy, cowboy and romantic ballads — is reasonably satisfying.

There's no question her back-up band, "Red Wyng", is a competent, entertaining act. On occasion, Mike Musson's fiddle shows some original stylings, and Frank Walls' steel guitar can be downright refreshing.

But the album needs a little more musical artifice to allow the musicians to play off each other, and more importantly, to open up room for Vinson's voice.



Laura Vinson

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Students Support

by Gerry Garcia

Four Ontario college students are paddling their way from Rocky Mountain House to Ottawa in an effort to raise public awareness about the logging controversy in the South Moresby Islands.

Currently, the four are in their eighth week of what could be a six-month voyage. Their journey will take them along the North Saskatchewan River all the way to Lake Winnipeg.

From there, the canoeists will ride into the Rainy River system, past Lake Superior's north shore, up the French river and down the Ottawa river to the nation's capital.

The planned logging project in areas of the Queen Charlotte Islands, the paddlers explained, during a stopover in Edmonton last month, would create severe erosion problems, and ultimately destroy a unique rain forest habitat.

Sandy Tustason, 20, said the Queen Charlotte Islands contain more species of black bears and peregrine falcons than any other area in the world. He remarked that if the loggers start bulldozing the land and cutting down trees, the natural habitat could be ruined forever.

Travelling along with Tustason are Joani Reimer, 21, Steve Newmasher, 18, and Steve Whitby, 22. All are enrolled in forestry-related programs in Ontario, and all have extensive experience in canoeing.

When the group arrives in Ottawa, it's expected they will be greeted by members of the Canadian Naturalists Federation. The

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Tustason said the added they could prob-

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Suicide Rate Is Highest In World, Expert Says

by Hy Chaparral

A suicide prevention expert says suicide rates among Canada's abor-

iginal peoples is higher than any other racial or ethnic group in the world.

Dr. Menno Boldt, a

sociologist at the University of Lethbridge, said he has never seen evidence of any people on earth whose suicide rates "are as bad as what Indians experience".

"The highest rates are found in the Indian communities in Canada. Even the worst ghettos in the U.S. cities don't have as high a rate. What we have here is a tragedy of major proportions," explained Boldt.

The sociologist chaired a provincial task force on suicide in the early 1970s, and went on to receive the prestigious International Association for Suicide Prevention's 1979 Stengel Award.

The association is an organization of professionals that come from fields such as psychiatry, sociology, public health, psychology, and various kinds of social work.

Statistics from the federal government indicate that in a four-year period — between 1978 and 1982 — at least 146 Status Indians committed suicide in Alberta. That's a rate of 61 deaths per 100,000 Indians, or nearly four times the provincial rate.

There are, however,

no comparable statistics for non-Status Indians and Metis.

Boldt deduced his conclusions after years of involvement with the association and the biennial reports of its members. Every year, the World Health Organization compiles suicide statistics by country, rather than by race or ethnic origin.

Boldt said the federal figures could well be "grossly underestimated" — perhaps by as much as one-half. And he pointed out the problem is also distorted by false or misleading reports in cases where a death may appear to be accidental, but in reality could be a suicide cover-up.

Less than five per cent of all Natives who commit suicide leave a note.

"We tend to talk a lot about suicide rates, but that distorts the

real problem. It doesn't fall equally among age groups, but

rather among males 16 to 30 years of age. That group commits suicide at 20 or 30 times the national average," explained Boldt.


Alcohol-related troubles and family

quarrels are tell-tale indicators that often precede suicide.

In the past few years, statistics from Health and Welfare Canada show the suicide rate for Natives between ages 15 and 40 is six times the national average.



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Canadian Record On Indian Rights Challenged

by Jim Crow

Later this summer, the Treaty Six Chiefs Alliance will continue its battle in challenging Canada's record on protection of Indian rights before the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

The alliance has been petitioning the Commission, based in Geneva, Switzerland, as well as its sub-commission and working group for more than five years now.

Comprised of eight central Alberta Indian bands, the alliance has been at the forefront of a movement which seeks to protect the rights of

indigenous people in every country of the world. It's expected the alliance will make another presentation to the Commission sometime in late August.

Alex Redcrow, a councillor from the Saddle Lake Indian Nations, said the Canadian government is practising "indigenocide" — the deliberate liquidation of indigenous peoples. Redcrow said this is accomplished by instituting policies designed to assimilate Indians, and thereby destroy their religion, culture and language.

Redcrow, who has flown to Geneva several times in the last few years, said he may go again

this summer with alliance lawyer Sharon Venne to make another presentation.

Venne herself made a number of presentations to the 44-member commission last February. She said Canada couldn't continue making claims that it treats Indian people fairly. "The major emphasis over the past three years has been the right to Native self-determination," she remarked.

Bill C-31, which restored and granted full Indian status to thousands of people — mostly women and children — and gave bands the right to develop their own membership codes, is, according to Venne, "completely contrary to all United Nations covenants regarding racial discrimination and human rights".

Venne alleged that the federal government is using the anti-women argument, "when in fact the new bill isn't dealing with women, but with our right as indigenous people to self-determination".

A councillor for the Beaver Lake Indian Nation, Ron Lameman, recently said the federal government is equivocating on Native self-government. He said that while the government claims to support self-determination, "it actually forces us to accept reinstated women as members of our nations".

Presentations made to the UN this year have emphasized the rights of Indian people to land, and to their own religious beliefs.

In several months, Treaty Six chiefs from Saskatchewan and Alberta hope to develop a white paper on the relationship between treaty rights and self-determination.

ND Leader Demands Action On Water Quality

by Allan Shapiro

Opposition leader Ray Martin says Albertans are fed up with drinking bad water, and he wants to do something about it.

Last month, the New Democrat leader remarked that people "are demanding safe water, and we have to have this as an inalienable right".

During every spring run-off, decaying leaves and animal wastes make the water smell bad. "We are

even told the water is unsafe," he added.

In a written statement, Martin warned that Edmontonians "are served up water with high amounts of potentially carcinogenic hydrocarbons, bacteria-filled organic particles, and small traces of chemicals such as PCB."

The statement continued: "So-called Beaver Fever has been linked to North Saskatchewan water; Calgarys are still waiting for concrete action on

algae problems in the Bow; and all Albertans are still in the dark about the Lovett River, near the Luscar mine."

He told reporters a four-point "Clearwater Alberta" plan could help clean up the drinking water problem across the province, and create jobs at the same time.

Martin's plan includes the following suggestions:

- In-depth consultations between provincial and regional officers to design programs to improve the quality of water.

- Municipal clean-water programs which would receive \$10 million over the next five years.

- A Safe Drinking Water Act that would allow public input on

water standards. In addition, the governments should introduce mandatory prosecution for violators. Utility companies that distribute drinking water would be required to list water-standard violations on utility bills.

- Stricter controls which would be imposed on companies violating the Clean Water Act.

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Sinclair, Freeman Speak Out

Anti-Trap Leader Angers Natives

by Jim Crow

A Toronto-based leader of the anti-trapping movement claimed last month that the fur trade industry is not an integral facet of Native culture, but rather a 'force' that's destroying it.

Vice-chairman of the International Wildlife Coalition (IWC), Stephen Best, outraged many Native leaders when he stated that Indian culture "had already been devastated by the fur fashion trade many years before the animal rights movement sprung up".

Best was one of the speakers invited to a three-



Clifford Freeman
IAA Vice-President

day symposium held by the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists.

"So complete was the destruction of the Native culture that, except in self-interest, no Native voice has been raised to defend or protect the animals of the land," he charged. "In fact, quite the opposite is the case."

Jim Bourque, deputy minister in the Northwest Territories Department of Renewable Resources, and a trapper by profession, totally disagreed with Best. He said Native people are actively seeking to eliminate "the myth that all Indians and Inuit kill indiscriminately".

Bourque added that "discussion papers written by six-week wonders are taken for a joke in the North".

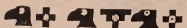
Indian Association of Alberta vice-president, Clifford Freeman, also challenged the IWC official. Best said his anti-trapping organization is also

critical of sportsmen who hunt and fish. But it was Freeman who drew a large round of applause when he said: "If we're not being singled out, stop using us as examples (of irresponsible actions)."

Best also told the symposium that the federal government has already spent billions of dollars in an attempt to reverse the damage caused by the fur trade.

"If the Indian relationship with nature and the fur fashion trade has given us anything, it is a stern and blatant warning of how not to interact with our environment," he added.

Sam Sinclair, President of the Metis Association of Alberta, argued that Native people at the symposium hadn't had enough time to spell out their side of the issue to biologists. "You're beginning to upset a lot of us after we've been mostly listening for the past three days," he remarked.



Both Logging and Park Approved

by Sy Sims

The government of British Columbia has approved in principle a study proposing the South Moresby archipelago be converted into a national park.

It is believed, however, that the Sacred Government will allow the controversial logging of Lyell Island within the same group.

Austin Pelton, Environmental Minister, said several weeks ago that a recommendation by a special advisory committee on wilderness preservation urged the province to negotiate the establishment of a park with Ottawa.

The South Moresby area of the Queen Charlotte Island chain is recognized around the world as a unique and abundant wildlife haven. For years, conservationists and environmentalists have called for its preservation.

The report, submitted by committee chairman Bryan Williams, said Lyell Island should continue to be logged. The recommendations annoy both conservationists and the Haida Indians, who consider the area to be a sacred shrine for their people.

Last fall, more than 70 Haidas, and Burnaby MP Sven Robinson, were arrested after blocking the road used by loggers.

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Grouard Dispute Likely To Be Resolved

by Sy Sims

Two Alberta cabinet ministers met with Native leaders in Grouard several weeks ago to try and resolve the dispute over a local vocational centre.

Distraught with a proposal to construct 50 housing units for married students in Grande Prairie instead

of in Grouard, Native protestors blocked the entrance to the local campus of the Alberta Vocational Centre with tents and teepees.

But an organizer in the protest is optimistic the student housing dispute can be resolved.

Jeff Chalfoux, who met several weeks ago with Neil Crawford, Minister responsible

for Native Affairs, said the meeting went very well.

Crawford said he would consult with Advanced Education Minister Dave Russell about the issue.

Chalfoux condemned Economic Development Minister Larry Shaben, the local MLA, for not showing up at the discussions.

Shaben made it known he supports building the housing projects in High Prairie.

The minister said the High Prairie site is justified both from an educational and economic standpoint. "Misinformation is being used on the people there. Large numbers who are not a part of the community are focusing on problems not even related to AVC."

Shaben added that his government has no intentions to reduce the size of the campus, or move the administration out of Grouard. Currently, the school serves a large region of northwestern Alberta.

Approximately 80 per cent of the students attending AVC are Native, and many of them come from rather isolated areas.

Chalfoux explained that Grouard is "an ideal setting" for Natives who want to upgrade their education because traditional activities such as hunting and fishing are very close to the school.

"To have people live in a semi-urban setting could be quite detrimental. They could easily experience culture shock and all the other problems that go along with that," he added.



Dave Russell

Logging And Park OK'd

Haida Decision Gets Mixed Reaction

by Sy Sims

A Haida Indian has vowed to don his war dress following a decision by the government of British Columbia to endorse an advisory committee study that gives loggers the right to work Lyell Island.

Mike Richardson Sr. visibly showed his great displeasure in response to the committee's recommendation to go ahead with the project. Richardson wasn't totally disappointed however, because a national park will be established in the South Moresby area of the

Queen Charlotte Island chain.

Austin Pelton, provincial Environment Minister, said his government is ready to start negotiating with Ottawa to turn most of the South Moresby region into a national park.

But contractor Frank Beban, whose company has been logging on the island, said he wasn't sure how the proposed park will affect his ability to log the area effectively.

Pelton's announcement was roundly criticized by environmental groups and spokesmen

for the Haida Indians, who blocked transportation of logging equipment on the island late last fall.

The Haida have long claimed aboriginal title to Lyell Island, and the rest of the Queen Charlotte's.

Richardson Sr., father of Council of the Haida Nation president Miles Richardson, said his people will not change their position. "I am going to put on my war gear, if that's what you want to know," he said.

Chief councillor of the Haida's Skidegate band, Tom Greene, said it was his people's contention not to allow any kind of logging in the area.



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Zaozirny On The Move To B.C.

by Hy Chapparel

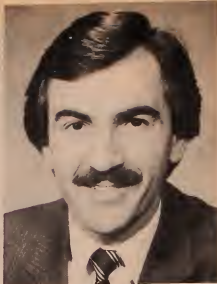
John Zaozirny, former energy minister for Alberta, has found himself a challenging new job with a Vancouver law firm.

Zaozirny, who stayed with the government for only one term, said last week he's heading out to British Columbia to take a position with the office of Russell DuMoulin.

Not surprisingly, the firm specializes in forestry, energy, and Pacific Rim trade — primarily the same areas Zaozirny headed up as energy minister.

He also indicated he does not intend to join the Social Credit Party in B.C. to run for the vacant leadership post. Last month, former Premier Bill Bennett shocked the province, and the country, by stepping down after ten years in power.

Zaozirny was often touted as a strong candidate for the Conservative leadership in Alberta until he decided to get out of public office.



John Zaozirny

Twinn Gets His Due Payment

by Hy Chapparel

Just days before the big Canadian heavyweight championship fight, Chief Walter Twinn of the Sawridge Band let it be known that Ken Lakusta owed him \$7,500.

The money in question was originally paid by Twinn to Lakusta's management team so that he could have a piece of the fighter's future. In effect, the chief had become one of Lakusta's backers.

But Twinn said he wanted his money back — with interest.

Gary Stevenson, Lakusta's principal manager, says an arrangement was struck just before the fight to give Twinn's money back.

Stevenson was upset; however, that Twinn circulated a letter pointing out Lakusta's debt to just about everyone connected with the fight.

As it turned out, Twinn may have made a good financial move because Lakusta was defeated, and lost the Canadian Championship Belt.

Willie de Wit defeated the former champ in a gruelling 12-round decision last week.

In an undercard bout, Fort McMurray's Danny Lindstrom, now fights out of Las Vegas, scored a huge victory over Willie Featherstone.

Lindstrom entered the fight with a 5-1-1 record. His opponent had a record of 15-2-0, and many considered Featherstone to be the top light-heavyweight in the country, even though he was not the titleholder.

Many experts believe Lindstrom, who is a Native, has a very bright future, and much bigger paydays ahead of him. He could challenge for the Canadian Light-Heavyweight title by the end of the year.

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DIA Could Experience Big Reductions

by Jin Cron

David Crombie, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, has proposed huge reductions in the size of his department over the next three years.

A leaked government document reveals Crombie plans to reduce his ministry which currently employs more than 8,000 people — by about 50 per cent.

Even though departmental staff will definitely be trimmed, Crombie says in the

documents that current federal funding will not be reduced to Native organizations. But he doesn't propose increasing funding for federal programs either.

Last week, Crombie met with provincial justice ministers and Native leaders to discuss further the changes he has in mind. He flatly denied, however, that he was turning over responsibility for Indian programs to provincial governments.

The documents also

indicate Crombie would like to hand over control of department programs and services to Native bands, but still retain form control of actual funding.

Crombie is proposing the government give the highest priority to negotiating separate self-government pacts with Indian bands, which would essentially provide them with powers similar to those of municipal governments.

It's believed many Native leaders will reject the proposal because they have continually pressed for total self-government, including direct transfer payments from Ottawa.

The documents suggest the minister is not very optimistic the provinces will go along with the concept of entrenching self-government in the Constitution — at least until settlements have been negotiated at the community level.

But Crombie feels the government will keep striving towards a constitutional amendment on self-government at next year's first ministers' conference on aboriginal rights.

Crombie has also rejected direct federal involvement in negotiating land claims with Metis and non-Status Indians.

The government takes the position that both groups are primarily a provincial responsibility, but is willing to continue some federal funding to them.

Cabinet has approved funding up to \$16 million over each of the next two years to cover the costs of negotiating self-government.



David Crombie



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Pension Plan Undergoing Revisions

by Hy Chaparral

Health and Welfare Minister Jake Epp recently announced draft legislation in Ottawa to amend the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) for examination by a Parliamentary Committee.

"The changes are intended to keep the plan on a sound financial footing, to adapt CCP benefits to the changing needs of Canadians, and to maintain the parallelism between the Canada and Quebec pension plans," said the minister.

Changes to the plan will require the approval of the federal government, as well as two-thirds of the provinces. All the provinces have indicated their agreement in principle. With the approval of parliament and the necessary provincial ratification, the proposed improvements will become effective on January 1, 1997.

The changes proposed include:

Flexible Retirement

- Contributors will now have the option of drawing retirement benefits as early as 60. They will receive reduced benefits if they begin receiving them earlier than age 65, and increased benefits if they delay them after age 65.

AFN Leader Concerned About Cuts

by Hy Chaparral

National chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), George Erasmus, said federal civil servants are "falling over themselves" to initiate recommendations in the Neilsen task force report.

Erasmus told a news conference several weeks ago that "There's beginning to be a new mind-set in the federal departments. What the bureaucrats are doing, to get ahead in their careers, are falling over themselves to look like they can implement the recommendations better than the next guy."

The task force, headed by deputy Prime Minister Eric Neilsen, called for the effective dismantling of the Indian Affairs Department. The report indicated its programs could be handled much more efficiently and effectively by other federal departments, the provinces, and Native communities themselves.

The report also found 106 programs are delivered to Native people by 11 federal departments at a projected costs of \$15 billion over the next five years.

Representatives in a number of departments

insisted the Neilsen recommendations are not being implemented.

But Erasmus charged that financial cuts to Natives arising from the report have already begun. The following are a number of examples he cited:

- A reduction of \$150,000 in the education budget of Saskatchewan's Thunder Child band.
- Cuts of \$184,000 in student education allowances for Ontario Indian bands.
- Health program cuts of \$180,000 to New Brunswick bands, with warnings to other bands in the country that their hospitals will be closed.

When questioned as to why he was so certain the reductions weren't part of general federal austerity programs, Erasmus said: "When you go into detail in each of the areas recommended by Neilsen — specific things affecting Native peoples — it can't be a coincidence that the exact things recommended are being implemented."

Disability Benefit

- Contributors who have become disabled, and all those already receiving disability benefits will have their benefits increased.
- New entrants to the work force, and those returning to the work force after an absence will have earlier disability coverage.

Survivor Benefits

- Persons receiving survivor benefits will no longer have their benefits discontinued if they remarry. Those whose benefits have been discontinued may apply to have them reinstated.

Combined Benefits

- Maximum combined disability and survivor benefits will be increased. Combined survivor and retirement pensions will be provided on a more generous basis.

Children's Benefits

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Poaching Rings Growing

by Hy Chaparral

A Manitoba wildlife official says poaching rings are taking in as many as 10,000 deer and one million kilo-

grams of fish every year.

Canadian Wildlife Service officer Gene Whitney said six Americans and 19 Canadians are involved in the

criminal ring.

The Americans are businessmen involved in poaching animals such as deer, elk and bear. Whitney remarked that the wildlife is sought after as trophy heads, fetching as much as \$40,000 a piece.

He also indicated that bear parts and deer antlers are being sold in parts of Africa and Asia as love potions.

"The key players are Americans, because that's where most of the money is," Whitney said. "And that's the name of the game — money."

The six are from Mississippi, California, Colorado, Montana, Wisconsin and Iowa, and each ran separate rings. Apparently the men continually entered Manitoba posing as either tourists or legitimate businessmen. Eventually, some Manitobans were enlisted by the rings because of their wildlife expertise, said Whitney.

However, the culprits are for the most part not being prosecuted because a shortage of staff and resources has made it difficult to build a case.

"We just don't have the money," said

Whitney, who is the wildlife enforcement federal agency's single officer in Manitoba.



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Protection — continued —

range of problems, but rather provide assistance over a fairly broad area.

Two good examples in this group are the provincial and federal departments of Consumer Affairs. Both answer telephone inquiries and distribute pamphlets and other materials on a variety of topics.

If you have a problem relating to credit, landlord and tenant matters, advertising, unfair business practices, licensing of trades and businesses, mortgage brokers or real estate, simply call one of the eight regional consumer offices.

The federal department is concerned with misleading advertising, deceptive marketing practice, food grade standards, packaging and labelling, product safety, and several other areas.

Other general help agencies include the Better Business Bureau, the Consumers' Association of Canada, and the Health Protection Branch of Health and Welfare Canada.

As an independent, non-profit organization, the Better Business Bureau will try to mediate a solution when it receives written complaints about member and non-member companies.

If you would like more information about a certain item before buying it, check with the Consumers' Association of Canada, which regularly tests and evaluates products. The CAC will

also advise you on a consumer problem, or refer you to an appropriate agency.

The Health Protection Branch is responsible for the safety of foods, drugs, cosmetics and medical devices.

The Branch is also very much involved with the inspection of food plants and enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act.



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Society Expands Business

by Jim Crow

The Mohawk Warri-
or Society of Caugh-
nawaga reserve in
Quebec says Indians
may augment their lu-
crative duty and tax-free
cigarette business by
selling other cut-rate
items — including
alcohol.

Society representa-
tives said it's part of
a movement to begin
a duty and tax-free zone
on the reserve that
would establish a
stronger economic

base. The action would
also allow Mohawks to
live without any aid
from the federal gov-
ernment.

The Society also
warned that any
attempt by the RCMP
or Quebec Provincial
Police to confiscate
contraband goods on
the reserve "would be
repelled".

The Society believes
that Indians have a
traditional right to
bring goods across bor-
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Pincher Creek Declared Safe

by Jim Crow

A drawn-out \$3.7 million study has concluded that complaints about health problems made by residents in the Pincher Creek area for the past quarter century, are without foundation.

People around this southwestern Alberta town had always put the blame on near-by sour gas plants. May said they suffered from ailments such as respiratory problems, skin irritations, fatigue and dizziness.

The study, which was made public at a community hall meeting in Pincher Creek last week, indicated many of the protests may simply be due to the "sustained stress" the community has been under during the controversy.

Funded at arm's length by the provincial

government, the report says that although residents have endured higher levels of some minor health problems, the levels aren't significantly higher.

It notes that Pincher Creek residents do not have higher death rates than elsewhere in the province, and shows people there don't suffer any higher incidences of birth defects, cancer, or respiratory problems. "Residents... are not any less healthier as a community than other Albertans, or even most other Canadians," the report states.

May of the farm families who came to the meeting weren't pleased with what they heard.



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ed in that range for the next two years.

A spokesman from 1982-83, and slumber-Statistics Canada said the steep drop in the 1982-83 timeframe was principally due to a ban on seal imports slapped on by the European Economic Community.

Figures for harp and hooded seal production are no longer released by Statistics Canada, simply because there are now less than three producers.

As far as prices go, the fur of the lynx showed the greatest improvement during the 1983-84 season. Although production of lynx pelts dropped from 13,500 to about 7,600 during that period, the average price per pelt soared from \$339 to almost \$600.

And as has always been the case, mink is again the most cherished and valuable species.




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Nightclub Torched

by Sy Sims

Almost two days of constant turmoil on the St. Regis Indian Reservation erupted into a violent confrontation in Hogsburg, N.Y. last month.

About 300 people set fire to a private nightclub, and then blocked firefighters' efforts to put out the blaze, according to reports from bystanders.

The crowd was protesting the sale of alcohol at the nightclub and several alcohol-related accidents on the reserve in previous weeks.

State police in Massena, N.Y., refused to release any solid

information on the incident until further investigations are complete.

A recent edition of the Ogdensburg Journal reported that a crowd of protestors, including women and elderly people, were continually shouting "Close down speak-easies!!"

The nightclub was among several unlicensed bars that operate on the reserve. Tribal leaders have opposed the bars, and have been attempting to close them down for months.

Tensions among the protestors, who had been picketing the speak-easy in an effort to pressure the owners to shut down the 24-hour operation, became heightened just hours before the fire when another alcohol-related accident was reported.

The fire was believed to have been started about 9 pm that evening. Its cause has still not been determined.

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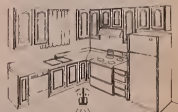
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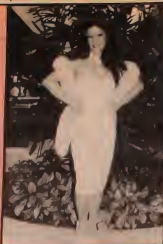
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